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EDITORIAL.

THE seventh summer meeting of the Geological Society of America, held at Springfield, Mass., will be remembered as one in which matters were transacted with promptness and commendable dispatch, amidst very agreeable surroundings. The principle of considering first only those papers whose authors were in attendance, and of reading the papers of absent members only when called for, proved highly satisfactory. Those who had come long distances to the meeting were able to present their papers properly, and at the same time were held closely to the time allowance they had themselves chosen. And it is to be hoped that similar methods will obtain at all future meetings. The session was short, lively and interesting. The president of the society, Professor N. S. Shaler, and the secretary, Professor H. L. Fairchild, are to be congratulated upon the success of the meeting. Of the nineteen papers upon the programme thirteen were presented by their authors, the others being read by title. Professor B. K. Emerson explained the geology of the central portion of Massachusetts, upon which he has been engaged for twenty-five years, and by means of elaborately detailed maps, which he has prepared for publication, and with the aid of others he has devised for his class room, he made clear the geological structure of the region.

Previous to the meeting he had conducted an excursion over the same ground, and had shown some of the chief exposures of metamorphosed palæozoic strata, whose character he has already demonstrated. Upon this trip he was assisted by Professor T. N. Dale and Professor Wm. H. Hobbs, who have been at work upon adjacent districts. The success of this excursion and of the short, impromptu one, which Professor Emerson kindly conducted on the afternoon of the last day of the meeting, has suggested the

desirability of making the chief function of the summer meetings the geological excursion, or excursions, and the presentation of such papers as may be germane to the geological problems there encountered. The greater number of papers consequently crowded into the winter meetings could be satisfactorily considered and discussed if they were judiciously classified and were presented in such sections of the society as could be held at the same time without interference; papers of general interest being read before the society in general session. A partial subdivision of papers was attempted at the last winter meeting, in Baltimore, and promised well.

A list of the papers presented at the Springfield meeting follows.

J. P. I.

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1. GEORGE M. DAWSON and R. G. McCONNELL :
On the Glacial Deposits of Southwestern Alberta, in the Vicinity of the Rocky Mountains.
2. C. H. HITCHCOCK :
The Champlain Glacial Epoch.
3. WARREN UPHAM :
Drumlins and Marginal Moraines of Ice-sheets.
4. H. L. FAIRCHILD :
The Glacial Genesee Lakes.
5. B. K. EMERSON :
The Geology of Old Hampshire County in Massachusetts.
6. N. H. DARTON :
Notes on Relations of Lower Members of Coastal Plain Series in South Carolina.
7. N. H. DARTON :
Resumé of General Stratigraphic Relations in the Atlantic Coastal Plain from New Jersey to South Carolina.
8. ARTHUR HOLLICK :
Cretaceous Plants from Martha's Vineyard. Results Obtained from an Examination of the Material Collected by David White in 1889.
9. WILLIAM B. CLARK :
On the Eocene Fauna of the Middle Atlantic slope.
10. R. T. JACKSON and T. A. JAGGAR :
Arrangement and Development of Plates in the *Melonitidae*.

11. GEORGE P. MERRILL :
On Asbestos and Asbestiform Minerals.
12. WM. H. HOBBS :
Pre-Cambrian Volcanoes in Southern Wisconsin.
13. A. CAPEN GILL :
A Geological Sketch of the Sierra Tlayacac, in the State of Morelos,
Mexico.
14. C. H. GORDON :
Syenite-Gneiss (Leopard Rock) from the Apatite Region of Ottawa
County, Canada.
15. J. F. KEMP :
The Titaniferous Iron Ores of the Adirondacks.
16. J. C. BRANNER :
The Decomposition of Rocks in Brazil.
17. W. M. DAVIS :
The Bearing of Physiography on Uniformitarianism.
18. C. R. VAN HISE :
Analysis of Folds.
19. N. S. SHALER :
On the Effects of the Expulsion of Gases from the Interior of the
Earth.